

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name. I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought

on the invention entitled

MASKING STRIP AND THE USE THEREOF

the specification of which is attached hereto, FEB - 8 2000

or was filed on November 2, 1999

as Application Serial No. 09/431,849

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s), the priority(ies) of which is/are to be claimed:

198 51 191.4  
(Number)

Germany  
(Country)

November 6, 1998  
(Month/Day/Year Filed)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose the material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)

(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)

(patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

**POWER OF ATTORNEY:** As a named Inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Kurt G. Briscoe, Reg. No. 33,141; William C. Gerstenzang, Reg. 27,552; Carmella A. O'Gorman, Reg. No. 33,769 Stephen G. Ryan, Reg. No. 39,015 and Lorimer P. Brooks, all of 660 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, New York 10591, William R. Robinson, Reg. No. 27,224, Davy E. Zoneraich, Reg. No. 37,267 and Mark A. Montana, Reg. 44,948, all of 721 Route 202-206, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807 my attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation

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*Ns*  
*7/1*

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